



Montana Department of
LABOR & INDUSTRY
Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director
E-mail: ckylervest@mt.gov

Telephone: (406)444-1520
Fax: (406)444-1394

Barb Wagner, Chief Economist 406-444-5474



Date 9/20/13

For Immediate Release:

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STEADY AT 5.3%

(HELENA) --- Montana's unemployment rate held steady at 5.3% in August. The national rate declined by 0.1 percentage points to 7.3%.

"Montana's job growth was flat, but the state has still added jobs since this time last year" said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "Employment levels this August are 3,200 higher than last year."

Both payroll and total employment estimates suggested little change in employment levels over the month. Payroll employment was flat for August after a gain of 1,200 jobs in July. Total employment estimates, which include payroll employment plus the self-employed, slipped down by about 650 jobs for the second straight month. The total employment losses were matched by a 720 person decline in the labor force, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5.3%

Inflation levels remain low. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased by 0.1% in August, led by increases in the prices for shelter and medical care. The energy index declined 0.3%. Core inflation, measured by the all items less food and energy index, rose by 0.1%.

###

*** Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.*

The next Labor Situation Report will be released on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 instead of the usual schedule of the third Friday of the month.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******



Visit our website at www.lmi.mt.gov for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. **Find a short version of the Labor Day Report in this month's Economy at a Glance article.** County unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **4.8%**. County labor force information can be found by using this link:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=205>.